

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 CIAE-00 INR-05 SSO-00
NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-03 ACDA-10 PRS-01 L-01
INRE-00 /056 W
-----040466 141628Z /23

O R 141527Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3748
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1309

LIMDIS

NOFORN

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GR, TU, NATO
SUBJECT: MEETING OF GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN
BRUSSELS

REF: STATE 296370

1. IN MEETING WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
TZOUNIS DECEMBER 14, I ASKED FOR RUNDOWN ON MEETING WHICH HAD
TAKEN PLACE IN BRUSSELS DECEMBER 9 BETWEEN PAPALIGOURAS
AND CAGLAYANGIL. TZOUNIS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AS HAD BEEN STATED IN
POST-MEETING JOINT STATEMENT, (ATHENS 11234 AND USNATO 12536)
THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD AGREED THAT NEGOTIATION ON THE
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CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD BE REOPENED SOON WITH DATE AND PLACE
TO BE ARRANGED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. GOG HOPES TALKS
WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN JANUARY RIGHT AFTER THE HOLIDAYS. TZOUNIS
EXPECTS THAT HE AND AMBASSADOR BILGE WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT
THE TWO GOVTS AT THE RECONVENED TALKS WHICH HE HOPES WILL TAKE
PLACE IN PARIS. CAGLAYANGIL TOLD PAPALIGOURAS THAT GOT WAS
PREPARED TO RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING TO GOG'S PROPOSALS

ON THE AGEAN SUBMITTED LAST JUNE. TZOUNIS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO CONTINUE AIR SPACE DISCUSSIONS IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, ALSO PROBABLY BEGINNING EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR.

2. TZOUNIS SAID MUCH OF THE TWO-HOUR MEETING HAD BEEN DEVOTED TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION WITHOUT GETTING MUCH FARTHER DOWN THE ROAD. CAGLAYANGIL MADE A LONG EXPOSITION OF THE TURKISH POSITION AND ASSERTED THAT GOT WAS ABLE AND WILLING TO MAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. HE SAID THAT AGREEMENT ON THIS MATTER

HAD BEEN REACHED BY THE GOT COALITION PARTIES, BUT AT THE "LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR" LEVEL. TURKEY AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY AND TO GIVE UP TERRITORY HE SAID, BUT THE PRECISE AMOUNT AND LOCATION MUST COME OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, NOT BE A PRE-CONDITION FOR THEM.

3. PAPALIGOURAS HAD DENIED THAT GREEK CYPRIOT INSISTENCE ON A TURKISH TERRITORIAL COUNTERPROPOSAL WAS A PRE-CONDITION. GREEK CYPRIOTS HAD AGREED TO DISCUSS CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND HAD EVERY RIGHT NOW TO HAVE A SERIOUS TURKISH CYPRIOT RESPONSE ON TERRITORY. THE TWO ELEMENTS WERE PART OF A PACKAGE DEAL AND COULD NOT BE SEPARATED.

4. IN RESPONSE TO PAPALIGOURAS' QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REPORTED FOUR-PARTY NEGOTIATING FORMULA, CAGLAYANGIL REPLIED THAT THIS HAD BEEN HIS PERSONAL VIEW OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROCEED AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS NOT A FIRM GOT PROPOSAL. PAPALIGOURAS DESCRIBED IN DETAIL WHY GOG COULD NOT PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS. FIRST, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO MAINLAND GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR CYPRIOT PARTNERS WAS NOT THE SAME; THE GOT HAD ULTIMATE CONTROL OVER TURKISH CYPRIOTS BECAUSE OF ITS TROOPS AND AID, WHEREAS GOG'S INFLUENCE ON GREEK CYPRIOTS WAS MUCH MORE TENUOUS. SECOND, IF GOG WERE A PARTNER AT NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH GREEK CYPRIOTS, THE LATTER COULD BRING PRESSURE ON GOG TO TAKE POSITIONS DETRIMENTAL TO A SOLUTION BY MANIPULATING GREEK DOMESTIC OPINION. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, GOG STANDS ASIDE FROM DIRECT INVOLVEMENT, IT CAN AVOID BEING MANIPULATED IN THIS WAY AND CAN BRING ITS OWN INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT WHERE THIS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL. FINALLY, IF GOG WERE DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH GOT IN CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AT SAME TIME AS AEGEAN NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING ON, THE TWO MATTERS WOULD INEVITABLY BECOME LINKED DESPITE DESIRE TO TREAT THEM SEPARATELY, AND EACH PROBLEM WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT TO SETTLE.

5. ASKED FOR GOG'S ASSESSMENT OF GOT'S WILLINGNESS TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS IN LIGHT OF THE BRUSSELS MEETING, TZOUNIS SAID CAGLAYANGIL HAD SEEMED REASONABLE, SERIOUS AND PERSUASIVE. LOOKING AT PAST NEGOTIATING HISTORY OF THESE PROBLEMS, HOWEVER,

THE GREEKS WILL NOT BE CONVINCED GOT WANTS AND WILL WORK TO
SETTLE THESE MATTERS UNTIL THEY SEE MORE SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENTS.
PROMISES AND INTENTIONS ARE NO LONGER ENOUGH.

6. ADDITIONAL VIEWS EXPRESSED BY TZOUNIS ABOUT BRUSSELS
MEETINGS WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS01309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770465-0733
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771259/aaaabxtj.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 313dd504-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 296370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 246703
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING OF GREEK AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS
TAGS: PGOV, GR, TU, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/313dd504-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009